

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, NEUCHATEL - QUARTERLY REPORT

DIVISION : MANUFACTURING SERVICES GROUP
SUBJECT TITLE : EDP APPLICATION FOR PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS
PERIOD COVERED : APRIL - JUNE 1990
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OBJECTIVE

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Develop an EDP system to manage product specification matters, following the removal of text processing facility 8100 on which product specifications used to be prepared.

The application was intended to support, if possible, speed up, the administrator's specs maintenance tasks. It should provide easy and immediate access to specs data by all collaborators concerned, at all HQ and local functions. Manufacturing Services should be provided with a tool to enable on-line inquiries and write tailored reports of any kind. Further, the application was to be conceived in such a way that it could be compatible with and provide link possibilities to other EDP applications (SPITAB at HQ Lausanne, C.I.R and Monitoring at R&D, etc.).

DEVELOPMENT

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Project documentation was prepared and the concept designed during spring and summer, 1989. Presentations were made to persons involved in all production centers and at R&D, and programming started in September, 1989, using SPITAB.

End December, 1989, it was decided to abandon the SPITAB package which did not offer enough facilities for the product specifications. An in-house soft was then set up in three month's time.

Today, 95% of all data are loaded. The system is extremely user-friendly. Most of the working tools are available (FOCUS). All objectives were met or are provided for, except for the direct link to HQ's SPITAB system.

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EXTENT OF APPLICATION

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The product specs application covers, from the bottom to the top of the product structure:

Technical Sheets for	filter additives, semisolutions and plasticizers
	acetate tow, crepe paper
	plug wraps
	cigarette logo inks
	cigarette papers
	tipping papers

Product Specs for	filter (semis and ready for use)
	blend (basic data only)
	cigarettes

The chapter "cigarette" includes a table showing the countries of sale and the figures printed on the packs. It provides for the control of pending modifications (implementation schedule).

STATUS AND OUTLOOK

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The display access control system (DACS) will enable giving selective access to the various groups of users, within R&D, the HQ-functions in Lausanne and at production center level. In addition to the specs administrators, two test persons have presently access to the production system, one MSG-collaborator has access to the production system and to the FOCUS data base.

DACS will be subject to approval by R&D management, who will be given a presentation of the specs application during the second half of August. Other presentations will then follow, at all locations.

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